TET/CONTROL-U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY INFORMATION REPORT CD NO. 25X1 COUNTRY Bulgaria DATE DISTR. 19 APR 51 Ration System and Black Market; Firearms; NO. OF PAGES 2 Religion NO. OF ENCLS. SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. This moch sert coltains intogention appetition the internal defense of the united pathes within the Searing of the Espidace act so 5.5.C., 31 and 32. As alreaded. Its tradesission on the reviewthous of its contents is any emperts on a unautionized person is pro-mismad by Lay. Reproduction of this worm is promisited. THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION The following articles are rationed and cannot be obtained without cards and coupons: bread, meat, fish, cheese, soap, kerosene, rice, fats, eggs, olive oil, apples, potatoes, stove wood, coal, clothing, shoes, stockings, and, in general, all textiles. For bread the coupons are changed every month; for other things coupons are changed every three months. 2. Before a person can obtain his coupons he must fill out a form for himself and his family, stating who works and where; what kind of work they do; and the ages of each. Employers must certify that the employee is working for him and the certificate must then be "legalized" by the appropriate professional organization before the bread coupons can be obtained and used. 3. Coupons are distributed in quantities depending upon which of the following five categories the citizen may belong to: The first category includes writers, journalists, artists, doctors, lawyers, directors of various enterprises and all those persons who earn more than 15,000 levas per month. b. The second category includes state officials, specialized workers and all those making between 10,000 and 15,000 levas per month. The third category includes laborers, pensioned persons, and certain others. The fourth category includes traders, artisans, and men whose age does not permit them to work. The fifth category includes all others. This group has no right to ration coupons. 5. Farmers are not given bread coupons because they are considered producers and are allowed to retain a certain quantity of wheat for the entire year (600 grams per person per day) after the harvest. Nor do the farmers receive coupons for other things such as clothing; they obtain these supplies from the village cooperatives.

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- 6. Exceptions in the quantities of purchases are made for certain privileged persons. A strong laborer receives the TFR (hard physical work) coupon, enabling him to purchase 800 grams of bread per day and 400 grams of neat per week; laborers and government officials of the second and third categories receive the FR (physical work) coupon which gives 600 grams of bread daily and 300 grams of meat weekly; the regular H coupon entitles the other categories to 400 grams of bread per day and 200 grams of meat per week. The price of 800 grams of bread is 30 levas with coupons and 80 levas without coupons. Priority in the distribution and purchase of many commodities is established according to categories, beginning with the first.
- 7. The black market exists in two forms, official and unofficial. There are official state stores where without coupons one can buy, at high prices, such things as bread, textiles, clothing, shoes, butter, eggs, fats, olive oil, and blankets. These stores supply principally members of the fifth category, who have no ration coupons, and farmers, who buy mainly textiles and bread, because the authorities do not allow them to retain sufficient wheat for their needs. The unofficial black market is used by everyone for buying and selling. The farmers sell their products at free prices, but they must possess a certificate indicating that they have made their required contribution of produce to the village authorities.
- 8. The following articles are not available, either legally or on the black market: oranges, lemons, olives, and rare medicines, such as penicillin. The shortage of medical supplies is particularly acute, to the point that such supplies received from outside the country are requisitioned by the authorities and not delivered to the recipient unless he actually needs them.
- 9. No one in Bulgaria is allowed to possess or carry firearms, including hunting gums, except those having special authorization from the militia. The right to hunt is enjoyed only by members of the hunting associations; fishing is restricted to members of the fishing cooperatives.
- 10. There has been no public persecution of the priests and generally the priests refrain from criticizing injustices and irregularities in the government. The churches are well attended, but the absence of younger people is noticeable, probably because of fear as much as conviction. In addition to the Protestant ministers arrested and sentenced last year, there are a very few Orthodox priests in the concentration camps. The government appears to be avoiding a public and serious battle with the Church because of the religious nature of the people.